AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1. (Currently Amended) A process for the production of paper which comprises;
- (i) providing a suspension containing cellulosic fibers, and optional fillers,
- (ii) adding to said suspension a drainage and retention aid comprising <u>at least</u> 0.001% by weight of a cationic organic polymer based on dry stock substance, the cationic organic polymer having an aromatic group;
- (iii) forming and dewatering the obtained suspension on a wire, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of at least 2.0 3.5 mS/cm, and a content of di- and multivalent cations of at least 200 ppm.
- 2. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of at least 5.0 mS/cm.
- 3. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer is a vinyl addition polymer comprising in polymerized form one or more monomers comprising at least one monomer having an aromatic group.
- 4. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer is an acrylamide-based polymer.
- 5. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer comprises in polymerized form a cationic monomer having an aromatic group represented by the general formula (I):

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} CH_2\!\!=\!\!C\!\!-\!\!R_1 & R_2 & (I) \\ & & | & | \\ O\!\!=\!\!C\!\!-\!\!A_1\!\!-\!\!B_1\!\!-\!\!N^{\!+}\!\!-\!\!Q & X^{\!-} \\ & & | & \\ & & R_3 & \end{array}$$

- 6. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer has a weight average molecular weight of at least 1,000,000.
- 7. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer is prepared from a monomer mixture comprising from 5 to 20 mole% of cationic monomer having an aromatic group and from 95 to 80 mole% of other copolymerizable monomers.
- 8. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the drainage and retention aid further comprises anionic inorganic particles.
- 9. **(Original)** The process of claim 8, wherein the anionic inorganic particles are silica-based particles or bentonite.
- 10. **(Original)** The process of claim 8, wherein the anionic inorganic particles are aluminium-modified silica-based particles.
- 11. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the drainage and retention aid further comprises a low molecular weight cationic organic polymer.
- 12. **(Original)** The process of claim 8, wherein the drainage and retention aid further comprises a low molecular weight cationic organic polymer.
- 13. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the drainage and retention aid further comprises an aluminium compound.

14. Cancelled.

- 15. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension comprises recycled fibers.
- 16. (**Previously Presented**) The process of claim 1, further comprising obtaining a wet web of paper and white water from dewatering the suspension on the wire, recirculating white water and introducing fresh water to form a suspension containing cellulosic fibers, and optional fillers, to be dewatered, wherein the amount of fresh water introduced is less than 20 tons per ton of dry paper produced.
- 17. **(Original)** The process of claim 16, wherein less than 10 tons of fresh water is introduced per ton of dry paper produced.
- 18. **(Previously Presented)** A process for the production of paper which comprises:
- (i) providing a suspension containing cellulosic fibers, and optional fillers;
- (ii) adding to said suspension a drainage and retention aid comprising a cationic organic polymer having an aromatic group;
- (iii) forming and dewatering the obtained suspension on a wire to obtain a wet web of paper and white water,
- (iv) recirculating white water and introducing fresh water to form a suspension containing cellulosic fibers, and optional fillers, to be dewatered, wherein the amount of fresh water introduced is less than 30 tons per ton of dry paper produced.
- 19. **(Original)** The process of claim 18, wherein the cationic organic polymer is an acrylamide-based polymer.
- 20. (**Original**) The process of claim 18, wherein the cationic organic polymer comprises in polymerized form a cationic monomer having an aromatic group represented by the general formula (I):

$$CH_{2} = C - R_{1} \qquad R_{2} \qquad (I)$$

$$O = C - A_{1} - B_{1} - N^{+} - Q \qquad X$$

$$R_{3}$$

- 21. **(Previously Presented)** The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a content of di- and multivalent cations of at least 300 ppm.
- 22. (Currently Amended) A process for the production of paper which comprises;
- (i) providing a suspension containing cellulosic fibres, and optional fillers,
- (ii) adding to said suspension a drainage and retention aid aids comprising a cationic organic polymer having an aromatic group and anionic microparticulate material;
- (iii) forming and dewatering the obtained suspension on a wire, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of at least 2.0 mS/cm and obtaining a wet web of paper and white water, recirculating white water and introducing fresh water to form a suspension containing cellulosic fibres, and optional fillers, to be dewatered, wherein the amount of fresh water introduced is less than 20 tons per ton of dry paper produced.
- 23. **(Previously Presented)** The process of claim 22, wherein less than 10 tons of fresh water is introduced per ton of dry paper produced.
- 24. **(New)** The process of claim 22, wherein the anionic microparticulate material is anionic organic particles.

- 25. **(New)** The process of claim 22, wherein the anionic microparticulate material is anionic inorganic particles.
- 26. **(New)** The process of claim 25, wherein the anionic inorganic particles are silica-based particles.
 - 27. (New) A process for the production of paper which comprises;
- (i) providing a suspension containing cellulosic fibres, and optional fillers,
- (ii) adding to said suspension drainage and retention aids comprising a cationic organic polymer having an aromatic group and anionic organic particles; and
- (iii) forming and dewatering the obtained suspension on a wire, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of at least 2.0 mS/cm.
- 28. **(New)** The process of claim 27, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of at least 5.0 mS/cm.
- 29. **(New)** The process of claim 27, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of at least 7.5 mS/cm
- 30. **(New)** The process of claim 27, wherein the anionic organic particles are cross-linked anionic vinyl addition polymers.
- 31. **(New)** The process of claim 27, wherein the cationic organic polymer is an acrylamide-based polymer.
- 32. **(New)** The process of claim 27, wherein the aromatic group of the cationic organic polymer is a benzyl group.
- 33. **(New)** The process of claim 27, wherein the cationic organic polymer comprises in polymerized form a cationic monomer having an aromatic group represented by the general formula (I):

$$CH_{2} = C - R_{1} \qquad R_{2} \qquad (I)$$

$$I \qquad I$$

$$O = C - A_{1} - B_{1} - N^{+} - Q \qquad X^{-}$$

$$I \qquad R_{3}$$

- 34. (New) A process for the production of paper which comprises;
- (i) providing a suspension containing cellulosic fibres, and optional fillers,
- (ii) adding to said suspension drainage and retention aids comprising a cationic organic polymer having an aromatic group and anionic organic particles;
- (iii) recirculating white water and introducing fresh water to form a suspension containing cellulosic fibres, and optional fillers, to be dewatered, wherein the amount of fresh water introduced is less than 10 tons per ton of dry paper produced.
- 35. **(New)** The process of claim 34, wherein the cationic organic polymer is an acrylamide-based polymer.
- 36. **(New)** The process of claim 34, wherein the aromatic group of the cationic organic polymer is a benzyl group.
- 37. **(New)** The process of claim 34, wherein the cationic organic polymer comprises in polymerized form a cationic monomer having an aromatic group represented by the general formula (I):

$$CH_{2} = C - R_{1} R_{2} (I)$$

$$I I I$$

$$O = C - A_{1} - B_{1} - N^{+} - Q X^{-}$$

$$I R_{3}$$

- 38. **(New)** The process of claim 34, wherein the anionic organic particles are cross-linked anionic vinyl addition polymers.
 - 39. (New) A process for the production of paper which comprises;
- (i) providing a suspension containing cellulosic fibres, and optional fillers,
- (ii) adding to said suspension drainage and retention aids comprising a cationic organic polymer having an aromatic group and a water-soluble anionic vinyl addition polymer; and
- (iii) forming and dewatering the obtained suspension on a wire, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of at least 2 mS/cm.
- 40. **(New)** The process of claim 39, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of at least 5.0 mS/cm.
- 41. **(New)** The process of claim 39, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of at least 7.5 mS/cm.
- 42. **(New)** The process of claim 39, wherein the water-soluble anionic vinyl addition polymer is an acrylamide-based polymer.
- 43. **(New)** The process of claim 39, wherein the cationic organic polymer is an acrylamide-based polymer.
- 44. **(New)** The process of claim 39, wherein the cationic organic polymer comprises in polymerized form a cationic monomer having an aromatic group represented by the general formula (I):

$$CH_{2} = C - R_{1} \qquad R_{2} \qquad (I)$$

$$O = C - A_{1} - B_{1} - N^{+} - Q \qquad X^{-}$$

$$I \qquad R_{3}$$

- 45. (New) A process for the production of paper which comprises;
- (i) providing a suspension containing cellulosic fibres, and optional fillers,
- (ii) adding to said suspension drainage and retention aids comprising a cationic organic polymer having an aromatic group and a water-soluble anionic vinyl addition polymer; and
- (iii) recirculating white water and introducing fresh water to form a suspension containing cellulosic fibres, and optional fillers, to be dewatered, wherein the amount of fresh water introduced is less than 10 tons per ton of dry paper.
- 46. **(New)** The process of claim 45, wherein the water-soluble anionic vinyl addition polymer is an acrylamide-based polymer.
- 47. **(New)** The process of claim 45, wherein the cationic organic polymer is an acrylamide-based polymer.
- 48. **(New)** The process of claim 45, wherein the cationic organic polymer comprises in polymerized form a cationic monomer having an aromatic group represented by the general formula (I):

$$CH_{2} = C - R_{1} R_{2} (I)$$

$$O = C - A_{1} - B_{1} - N^{+} - Q X^{-}$$

$$I R_{3}$$

RESPONSE

A Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was received in the present application. Specifically, it was noted that claims 1 and 22 were not provided with the proper status identifer.

In the "Amendments to the Claims" section submitted herein, the identifers for claims 1 and 22 have been revised. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment in view of the present Response is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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